



# **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Program Overview**

**NER Subcommittee  
Raleigh, NC**

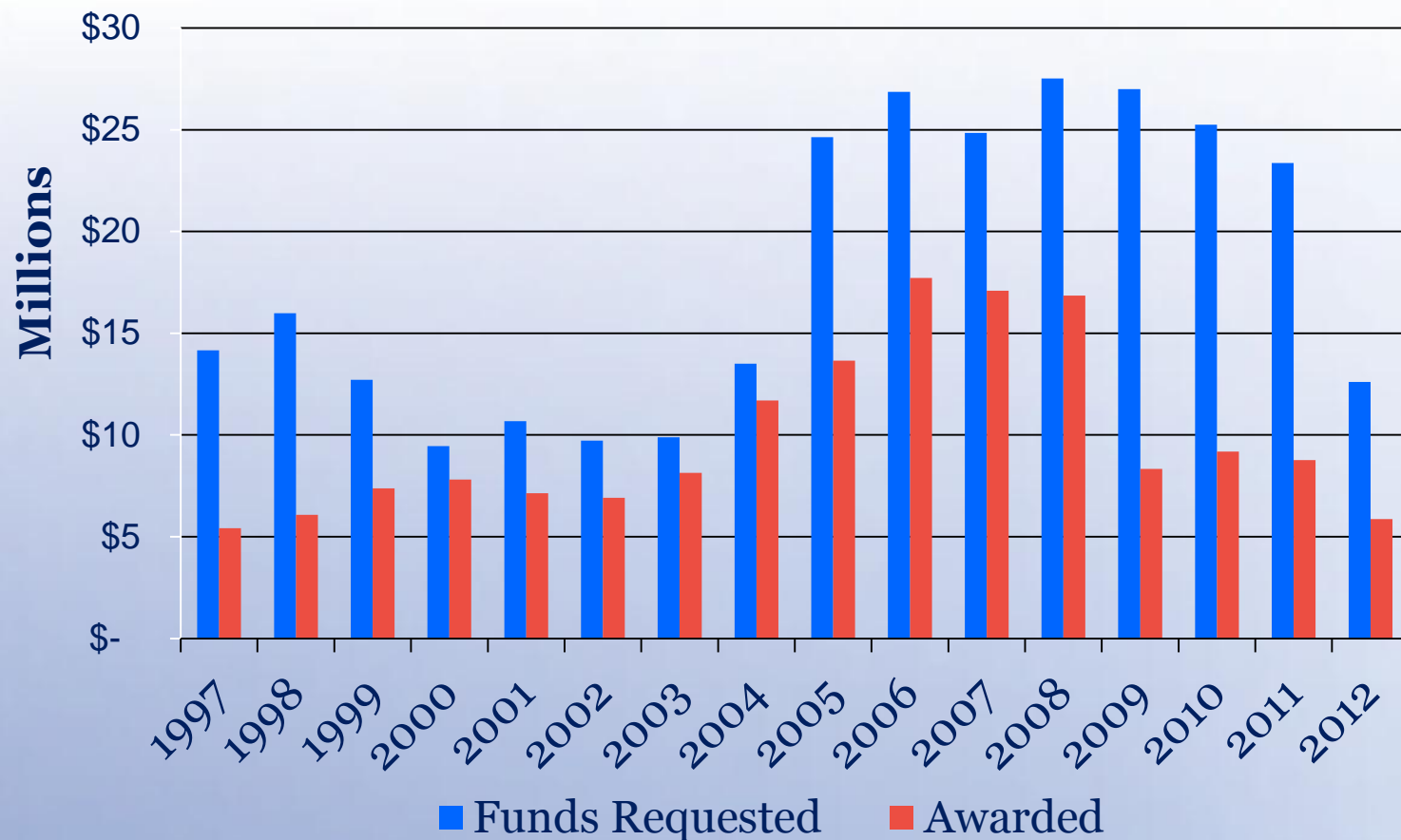
**Lewis Ledford, Director  
Division of Parks and Recreation**

# **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund**

## **Distribution of State and Local Projects: 1996 - 2012**



# PARTF Local Grant Funds Requested and Awarded



Totals: Applications: 1351 Grants: 722

# PARTF Local Grant Process

- *August*                      **Announcement to all local governments**
- *September*                **Application workshop – technical assistance**
- *January 31*                **Application Deadline**
- *Feb. – Mar.*               **Staff evaluates grants**
- *April*                        **Evaluations forwarded to Parks and Recreation Authority**
- *May & July*               **Parks and Recreation Authority select grant recipients**



*Alexander County,  
Rocky Face Mountain Recreation Area*



# Parks and Recreation Trust Fund 1995 - 2012

- ◆ 722 Grants Awarded in 99 counties
- ◆ 370 local governments have received a PARTF grant.
- ◆ Half of the cities or towns with a grant have less than 5000 residents.
- ◆ \$2 in local matching funds for every \$1 in PARTF funding



*Colonial Waterfront Park,  
Town of Edenton*

# Selecting Grant Recipients

## Factors used to select grant recipients:

- Rank by the scoring system
- Geographic distribution
- Population of the applicant
- Funds requested vs. funds available

## Parks and Recreation Authority:

- Votes using a 4-point system
- Selects grant recipients based on average points received.



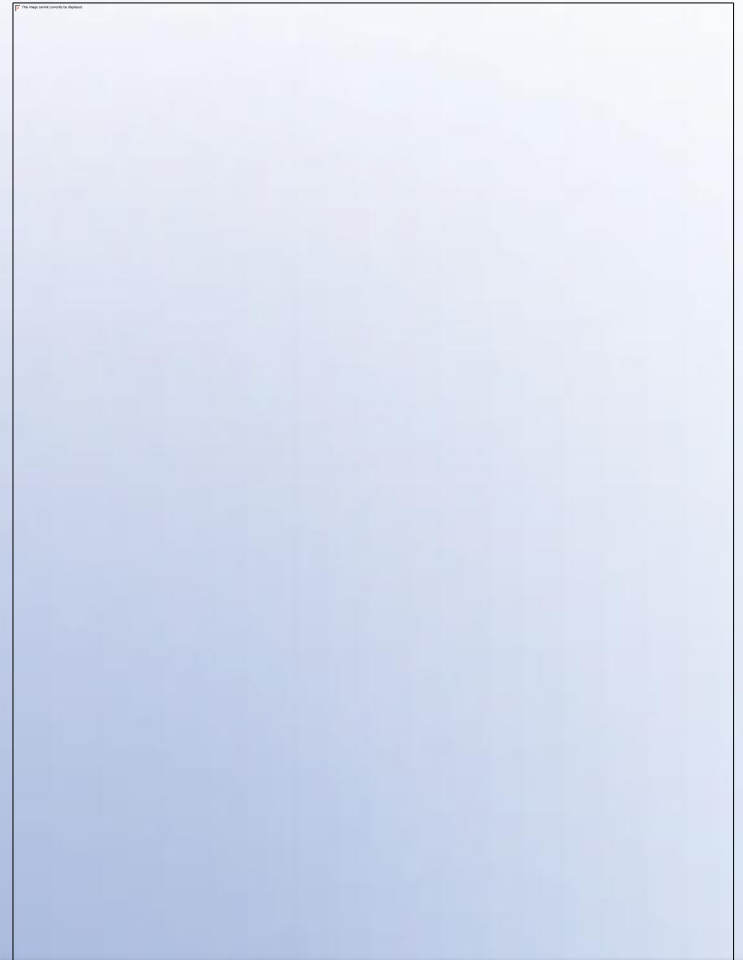
*City of Asheboro, Boat docks at Lake Lucas Park*

# Grant Administration

## Length of Contract

- **Two Year Contract**
- **Typical grant process:**
  - Permitting
  - Conceptual design and construction plans
  - Bidding Process
  - Construction

*Sensory Garden,  
City of Salisbury*





# Grant Accountability

## Grant Project Monitoring

- Pre-award inspection
- Annual on-site inspections
- Closeout inspection
- As-built site plans

## Reimbursement Requests

- Reviewed for consistency with project scope.

*Community Park,  
Town of Hildebran*





# Impact of PARTF Investment – Local Grants

## Jobs / Economy

- **PARTF** has created an estimated 10,000 jobs, many benefiting distressed businesses such as construction and landscaping.
- **Athletic Tournaments** = Tourist Spending. Soccer and softball tournaments account for \$5- \$10 million annually in Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Hickory and other cities.

## Health benefits

- More active lifestyles help reduce medical costs to treat chronic conditions – hypertension, diabetes, heart disease.
- PARTF is helping address these problems by providing opportunities for public recreation at state and local parks across North Carolina.

*Skate Park,  
City of Jacksonville,*



# Impact of PARTF Investment – Local Grants

## Local Tax Base

- Local parks can help pay for themselves in increased tax revenue.
- Research shows property within 500 feet of a park or greenway can be worth 5% to 20% more than more distance property.

## Crime Prevention

- Cities have documented decreases in juvenile crime when new community centers with recreation programs are opened.



*Gateway Gardens,  
Greensboro*

# Impact of PARTF Investment – State Parks

- **State Parks and Natural Resource Protection Highlights:**

- Grandfather Mountain State Park,
- Chimney Rock State Park
- Lake James State Park
- Carvers Creek State Park
- Mayo River State Park
- Carvers Creek State Park and
- Major additions to the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.



*Grandfather Mountain State Park*

- **Capital improvement projects:**

- Visitor centers and exhibit halls
- Campgrounds, picnic areas, boating facilities
- Trails and swimming beaches.



# Impact of PARTF Investment – State Parks

- **Tourism Destination:**

- State parks help make North Carolina an ideal destination.
- \$ 1.5 billion industry in North Carolina
- Each tourist to a state park spends an average of \$23.56 per day.

- **Economic Impact:**

Annual impact to local economies

More than \$400 million in sales & income

Nearly 5000 jobs.

*Stone Mountain State Park*



# Performance Measures– State Parks

- **Record Visitation**

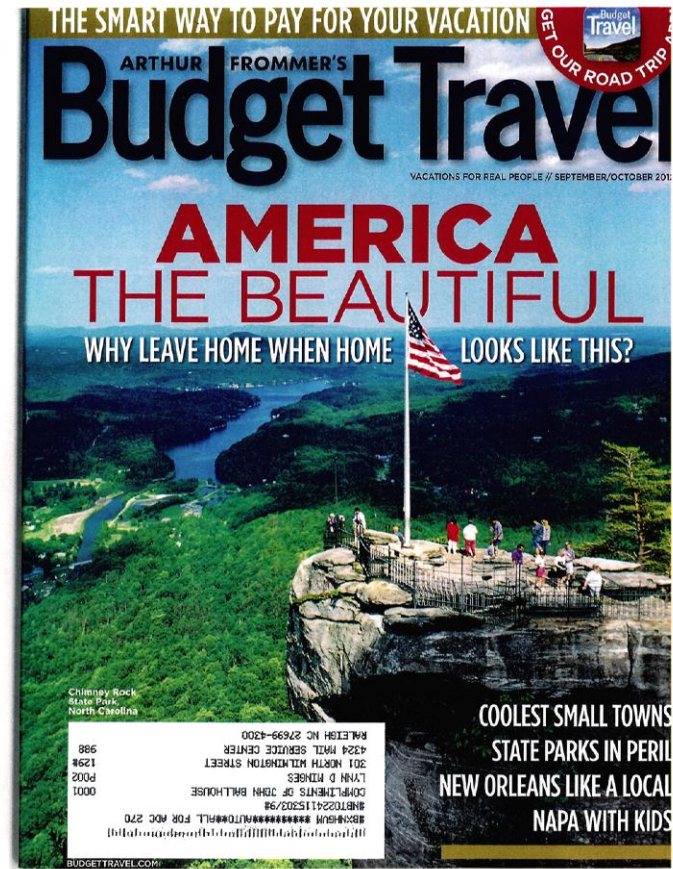
- State parks experiencing record visitation:
- **14.2 million** in 2012
- Up 25 % since PARTF was established

- **Efficiency**

- North Carolina – **47<sup>th</sup> in the nation**  
in per capita state park operating expenses.

- **Economic Impact:** For each dollar invested by the state,  
Between \$1.80 and \$25.10  
are generated for local economies.

*Economic Impact Study, NCSU*



**NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE PARKS**



# Performance Measures— Local Grants

- 600 completed projects
- Every \$1 of state funding is matched by \$2 of local matching funds
- More than 200 inspections and 100 reimbursements processed annually

*Lake Tomahawk Park,  
Town of Black Mountain*







*Yellow Mountain State Natural Area*





*...to protect North Carolina's **natural diversity**;*  
*...to provide and promote **outdoor recreation***  
*opportunities throughout North Carolina; and*  
*...to **exemplify and encourage good***  
***stewardship** of North Carolina's natural*  
*resources for all citizens and visitors*